

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 1-8, 10-18 and 37-44 were rejected and claim 9 was objected to. By the present response, claim 18 is amended to correct minor error in punctuation. Upon entry of the amendments, claims 1-18 and 37-44 will remain pending in the present patent application. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

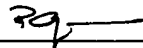
In the Office Action, claims 1-8, 10-18, and 37-44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Heller, U.S. Patent Application No. 2004/0099305. In response to the Office Action, Applicants affirm that Christian Maria Anton Heller, the sole inventor named in the Heller reference, contributed any common subject matter to the present invention. The Applicants are in the process of obtaining an affidavit of Mr. Heller under 37 C.F.R. §1.132 declaring that any invention disclosed but not claimed in Heller reference was derived from the co-inventor of the present patent application and is therefore not the invention "by another". The affidavit will be submitted as soon as it is received by the undersigned, and the Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider this as a *bona fide* response or attempt to respond to the Office Action. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the rejections of claims 1-8, 10-18, and 37-44 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the unavailability of the Heller reference as prior art, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview will help speed this application toward issuance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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